



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600



OCT 19 2004

The Honorable John W. Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Conyers:

I am writing to follow up on Secretary Rumsfeld's response to your letter regarding Department of Defense (DoD) policy pertaining to detainee interrogation procedures.

Your letter requests declassification of the "March 6, 2003 memorandum . . . that has been discussed in detail in media reports" and expresses concern generally about U.S. policy on interrogations.

On June 22, 2004, the Counsel to the President held a press briefing at which he, the General Counsel of the Department of Defense, and the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence explained in detail U.S. policy regarding detainee interrogations, including particularly the prohibition on the use of torture. As the Counsel to the President emphasized, the President has been clear that the U.S. Government does not condone or commit torture. Moreover, anyone who engages in conduct that constitutes torture will be held accountable, as appropriate.

The March 6, 2003 document to which you refer was a working draft. The final version of that document, dated April 4, 2003 and titled "Working Group Report on Detainee Interrogations in the Global War on Terrorism: Assessment of Legal, Historical, Policy, and Operational Considerations," was declassified and released to the Congress and the public on June 22, 2004 at the time of the press briefing by the Counsel to the President.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Dell'Orto
Principal Deputy General Counsel

